

## If your property is flooding from a storm drain facility, you should:

If the flooding is caused by a public storm drain facility, call the County Public Works Department, Maintenance Division, at (925) 313-7000.

If flooding is caused by your "private" storm drain system, seek the services of a contractor (such as a "sewer" company or a General Engineering Contractor as noted above) to locate and remove any blockage in the storm drain.

Take interim action to protect your home by channeling floodwaters around your home by digging ditches or building berms. If this is not possible, use sandbags and plastic sheeting to seal openings to your home. Sand bags and plastic sheeting can be purchased from your local hardware or building materials store. If you need a pump, they can be rented at an equipment rental company.

Ask neighbors who have had similar work done to recommend a contractor who can assist you.



## Are you in a flood hazard area?

If you are located in a floodplain or a low lying area subject to area wide flooding, you may be in a Special Flood Hazard Area. These areas are determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA has developed maps of these flood areas. If you are not sure if your property is in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

Area, call 925-646-1623 to find out or visit FEMA's web page at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## Drainage Flood Terms

### What is a floodplain?

A floodplain is a low-lying area, usually adjacent to a creek, that receives overflow from a waterway during heavy storms.

### What is an inlet?

A drainage inlet is usually a round or square concrete structure that is even with or slightly below the ground surface and allows storm water to enter the storm drainpipe.

### What is a manhole?

A manhole is usually a round or square concrete structure that provides access to clean out and maintain the storm drainpipes.

For more detailed information:  
Visit:  
[www.cccpublicworks.org](http://www.cccpublicworks.org)

### Hours

Monday – Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Closed 12-1

### Phone Numbers

Main Number:	(925) 313-2000
Fax Number:	313-2333
Clean Water Program:	313-2360
Design/Construction Division:	313-2320
Engineering Services Division:	313-2170
Environmental Services Division:	313-2366
Facilities Services Division:	313-7052
Flood Control District:	313-2270
Maintenance Division:	313-7000
Records Section:	313-2356
Watershed Program:	313-2296

### Website

[www.cccpublicworks.org](http://www.cccpublicworks.org)



Contra Costa County  
Public Works  
Department



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June 2019

# Property Flooding



Contra Costa  
County  
Public Works  
Department

255 Glacier Dr.  
Martinez, CA

Brian M. Balbas, Director

Deputy Directors

- Stephen Kowalewski, Chief
- Allison Knapp
- Warren Lai
- Carrie Ricci
- Joe Yee

## Did you know...

In many older Contra Costa County communities, underground storm drainpipes were constructed on private property without being placed in a public right of way. Since plans and records were not kept on these older storm drain systems, the location or existence of these underground systems may not be known to the property owner until they fail and cause flooding.



If a storm drain facility, whether underground or open, natural or man made, is not located in an easement or right of way accepted by the County, then the facility is considered a "private" storm drain. The maintenance of a private storm drain is the responsibility of the property owner. County Ordinance Code Division 1010 "Drainage" provides that no person shall impair or impede the natural flow of storm waters. The Ordinance Code prohibits all construction, alteration, or repair of any storm drain structure, facility, or channel without appropriate permits.

## What storm drains does the county maintain?

Three conditions must be met before the County accepts a drainage system on private property for maintenance.

**1)** The drainage improvements were required as a specific condition of approval for developing the property; **2)** Drainage easements encompassing the drainage improvements were dedicated to the County, recorded and accepted; **3)** The drainage improvements were constructed in accordance with County standards applicable at the time of con-



## Who is responsible for maintaining underground storm drain system on my property?

If a storm drain facility, whether underground or open, natural or man made, is not located in an easement or right of way accepted by the County, then the facility is considered a "private" storm drain. The maintenance of a private storm drain is the responsibility of the property owner who owns the property where the storm drain is located.

## If a "private" storm drain facility exists on your property:

**Inspect** the drainage facility after each heavy rain and remove all accumulated debris.

**Observe** the flow of water in the drainage facility during heavy rains and note how well the water flows. Investigate unusual conditions.

**Seek** professional help, such as a General Engineering Contractor or a Civil Engineer (listed under "Engineers" in the yellow pages).

When hiring a contractor, get three or more bids whenever possible. Check references and verify the license of the contractor you select. The number for the California Department of Consumer Affairs is (800) 321-2752.

Remember, permits are required to ensure drainage work is properly designed and to prevent projects that might adversely affect drainage on your property or your neighbor's property. You can apply for a permit by contacting our Permit Center at (925) 674-7744.



## To find out if a drainage facility exists on your property,

**Review** your deed, title report or property maps for the existence of utility or private easements that may exist on your property.

**Investigate** where storm water comes from and goes to in your neighborhood.

**Inspect** the streets in your neighborhood to locate drainage inlets and storm drain.

For more information call the County Public Works Department, Maintenance Division, at (925) 313-7000.

Contact the County Public Works Department, Records Section, at (925) 313-2000 for possible information regarding County maintained storm drains that may exist on or adjacent to your property.

